

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace Paragraph [0038] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

**[0038]** If host CRC is supported by the HBI 56, the DDS/encoder 60 includes host CRC coding device 87 that includes a buffer 88 that transfers the user data to a second XOR gate 90 and to the ECC/CRC encoder 62. The second XOR gate 90 performs bit-wise XOR on the user data and the output of the precoder 86 to generate a difference sequence. A CRC encoder 92 outputs CRC<sub>D</sub> bits that are generated based on the difference sequence to the ECC/CRC encoder 62 based on the output of the second XOR gate 90. A host CRC supporting DDS is disclosed in "Methods of Supporting Host CRC in Data Storage Systems Without RLL Encoding", U.S. Patent Application Serial No. ~~XXXXXX,XXX~~ 10/701,271, filed ~~X,X,XXXX~~ November 4, 2003, which is commonly assigned and is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

Respectfully submitted,

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